

Labor Is "Producing For Attack"

The ONLY REALLY INDEPENDENT WEEKLY in Mecklenburg County PRINTED AND COMPILED IN CHARLOTTE AND For a Weekly Its Readers Represent the LARGEST BUYING POWER in Charlotte MECKLENBURG COUNTY IN ITS ENTIRETY

The Charlotte Labor Journal

13 YEARS OF CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE TO NORTH CAROLINA READERS

Endorsed by the N. C. State Federation of Labor

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

Official Organ of Central Labor Union; Standing for the A. F. L.

VOL. XIII—No. 17

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1943

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

\$2.00 Per Year

J. A. MOORE MAKES RADIO ADDRESS OVER "WAYS" FOR CENTRAL LABOR UNION

The following program is sponsored by the Charlotte Central Labor Union of the American Federation of Labor. The views are not necessarily the views of this station but are presented in line with the WAYS policy of allowing responsible organizations to express their opinions on controversial matters.

Mr. J. A. Moore, former Secretary of the Charlotte Central Labor Union, Charlotte, N. C. It is my privilege and pleasure this evening to tell you radio listeners some of the story of what organized labor is doing in the war effort. You are familiar with many of the aims and accomplishments of Organized Labor, you have heard of the great strides which it has made in recent years, and you have also heard that the new progressive labor movement which cooperates with management, capital, the public, the investor and the worker, for the common benefit of the War effort, is marking a new era in American progress.

This evening, in the short time allotted I want to call to your attention just one of the phases of Organized Labor cooperation which is a contribution to the life of the entire community and is not confined to its workers alone, or to workers conditions, but benefits every American wage earner of every degree. I refer to the united, sustained effort which labor is making to combat inflation in this country during this war. Labor has bought bonds generously. Almost every organized plant in America flies proudly the Treasury flag which betokens Cooperation in payroll deduction purchases of bonds and stamps, and bond quotas have always been met in every organized community. But Organized Labor has gone beyond that in many fields.

One of the prime purposes of Organized Labor has always been to make the working man's dollar buy one hundred cents worth of honest value. As previously announced on this program, and sponsored jointly by the Charlotte Central Labor Union and Teamsters and Chauffeurs Local Union 71, we have made various studies on the increased cost in living and we find that the increase in the cost of living from January 1st, 1941 to May 15th, 1942 amounted to approximately 15 to 20%. As you know, the War Labor Board with the Little Steel Formula have only allowed an increase in wages of 15% since January, 1941 to date which means that all increased cost of living since May 15th, 1942 to the present date comes directly from your own pocket with no possible hope of additional income.

You also know that the American Federation of Labor is not asking for a general raise in wages as are now being paid but we have found that the increase in living cost has risen so much faster and further than has the wages that it has been found necessary to assist the OPA in their effort to lower the prices to that of 1942. Therefore the one and only way to overcome this inequality is to operate more closely with the OPA. It is with this in mind that labor has extended its strength to the program of the Office of Price Administration in its attempt to ration scarce commodities and control prices and rents. In every organized community in the United States the unions have offered their complete cooperation to the local War Price and Rationing Boards.

Organized Labor has singled out their most capable men in each of the communities and have asked them to give their time and ability to assisting in the OPA job of rationing and price control. These union men who have offered themselves and their time and ability to the OPA program have come to these Boards, not as representatives of a special group or a special interest, but as good Americans trying to take a part in the job to be done, and in serving on these local War Price and Rationing Boards they have brought the added advantage to the community that they have an organized body of them to help with the job of OPA. Every member of every War Price and Ration Board is on the Board to serve every member of every community without fear or favor and organized labor extends its strength and support to every member of every Board to see that our wartime program at home is faithfully carried out.

In every industrial plant in America employing over 100 people there is a transportation committee, composed of representatives of management and labor. It is the task of organized labor serving on these committees to see that its members who are employed

there use the gasoline and tires which they get for transportation to work as wisely and with as much savings as possible. And I might call your attention to the fact that no organized plant in North Carolina has ever failed to secure the praise of OPA and the public for the way they have saved these vital materials in this way.

Millions of gallons of necessary motor fuel and thousands of tires have been saved because labor knew the exact needs of its workers and because every member of organized labor appreciated this and cooperated with OPA aims in carrying it out. But as I said earlier in this talk, the task closest to the heart of labor has been cooperation with the price control program of OPA in preventing inflation. Labor is all out for price control. In price control organized labor sees the salvation of the workman's pay envelope and the future of America.

To help OPA in the job of price control, organized labor has provided members to serve on price panels, its auxiliaries have provided men and women to serve as Panel Assistants in various communities, it has promulgated information to its members and through them to the general public on the essentials of price control and on its necessity. Organized labor, nationally and locally, has been assisting in its efforts to keep prices down and to search out those who would take advantage of the buying public.

Organized labor asks the general public as well as its own members and their families not to buy from merchants who do not comply with the Government's wartime regulations. Most food dealers in Charlotte now are posting the required ceiling price charts for groceries and meats where they can be easily read by their customers. At the same time they are also complying with the rule that selling prices of groceries and meats must be marked on the food item or at or near the point of sale. Beef, veal, and lamb must be graded and the grade displayed along with the selling price in the meat counter.

Our war against inflation cannot be won unless all citizens cooperate with the government. Your share in the fight is to make certain that you do not encourage black markets or inflation by paying over legal prices. If his ceiling price charts are not posted where you can read them ask him to put them where they can be read.

In the matter of rent control, organized labor in this district is today polling its members to get a list of any rents which have been raised within the last twelve months, and organized labor has already requested OPA to survey this community with a view of establishing rent control here as it has in 355 other communities throughout this country.

Organized labor realizes that this war is not yet won. Organized Labor knows that the fight for Victory and maintenance of the American Way of Life goes on as long as the battles last and even beyond that time.

Organized Labor sees in OPA the government's instrument for providing all of the people with a fair share of the limited supply at a fair price, and Organized Labor stands four square back of this and any other activity which makes America a better place for all Americans.

It has been aptly said that the politics of the immediate post-victory world will be largely that of "bread, carrots, potatoes, beans and radishes."

"PERIL IN UNEMPLOYMENT"; "PRIVATE ENTERPRISES MUST BE BACKED," SAYS SECTRY MEANY

WASHINGTON.—George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, said in a statement last week that American industry must be ready to provide decent jobs for all who can work and want to work after the war.

He declared that the AFL believed in and upheld private enterprise, but "we have not only the right but the duty to tell the nation's industrialists in plain language that the American people—after fighting and bleeding and sweating to preserve the nation—cannot be expected to do and not intend to accept the misery of widespread unemployment for any protracted period of time."

While the war continues, he said, it was vital for American wage-earners to "continue to adhere to the policy of subordinating everything to the one paramount objective, the complete defeat of the Axis."

CALLS FOR TOP OUTPOST He called on labor to keep producing supplies with the "utmost speed."

"We must never forget," he said, "that it is one thing to overcome three Nazi divisions in Sicily and quite a different thing to cope with perhaps 90 or 100 Nazi divisions in Western Europe. When the Allied invasion of the Continent takes place the casualties among our boys can be held to a minimum if we at home have seen to it in advance, by our production, that they have been provided with overwhelming, crushing superiority over the enemy in all the tools of modern warfare."

ASSAILS "SELFISH CLIQUE" But he asserted that labor would be derelict if it failed to guard against the "clique of selfish men who are trying to use this war as a screen behind which to undermine laboring people and labor organizations."

He added that these "enemies of the working man are spinning the propaganda wheels without pause and spending vast sums of money in a far-flung, well-planned campaign to do injury to labor" with the hope of putting themselves in a position to "finish us off" when the war ends.

"It seems likely," he continued, "that they are encouraged by the memory of industry's all-out anti-union campaign after World War I. 'The time has come when we of labor must make it perfectly clear that we know what the anti-labor elements in the industrial, political and journalistic worlds are attempting to accomplish and that we stand ready to thwart them.'"

The Red Cross Is Now Preparing Parcels For Our War Prisoners

WASHINGTON, D. C.—American military and civilian personnel held as prisoners of war in European camps will receive special Christmas food packages on time through preparation now being made by the American Red Cross.

For the past three weeks approximately 2,000 Red Cross volunteers, working in shifts, have reported daily to Prisoner of War Food Packing Centers in Philadelphia, Chicago and New York to prepare 400,000 standard food packages for holiday distribution to United Nations war prisoners in Europe, who are receiving aid through the American Red Cross.

In addition, 10,000 special Red Cross packages are in preparation in the New York Center. Paid for by the Army and Navy and distributed through the International Red Cross Committee, these packages differ from standard packages in that they will contain: baked ham, cheese, fruit cake, Army spread, peanut butter, coffee, sugar coated and sweet chocolate, hard candy, candied nuts, cigarettes and one game. Private orders for the special packages are not accepted from individuals, the Red Cross announced.

PRODUCE FOR VICTORY

THE MARCH OF LABOR

FOOD PRICES ALONE ARE UNCONTROLLED—OPA CONTROL IS CAUSING A BREAKDOWN

WASHINGTON.—With the lone exception of foods, the cost-of-living rise has been pretty generally halted in the past year, an OPA survey discloses. Food prices, however, make up 40 per cent of the total living cost, it is estimated.

The OPA Labor Office reports that between May 18, 1942, when the OPA began to control retail prices, and May, 1943, the cost-of-living rose only 8 per cent and that most of this increase was due to food prices. In contrast, living costs rose 17.6 per cent from the beginning of the war in 1939 to May, 1942.

Clothing prices jumped 25.8 per cent before OPA control; only 1.3 per cent since. Rent rose 5.4 per cent before; 1.7 per cent since. House furnishings rose 21.5 per cent before; only 2 per cent since OPA control.

In contrast to these checks on living costs, OPA reports that food prices jumped 17.6 per cent between May, 1942 and May, 1943, accounting for seven-eighths of the total increase.

The role of the OPA is indicated in the following breakdown of food prices between May, 1942 and May, 1943. Foods under OPA control in May, 1942—4.1% increase. Foods brought under OPA control between May, 1942 and May, 1943—34.7% increase.

The OPA Labor Office points out that food price rises were accelerated by an increase of 29 per cent in the farm price of foods during the year as well as by a 16 per cent rise in distributor's margins.

Increase in the cost of living during this war have increased 29 per cent as compared with an increase of 41 per cent during the similar period of World War I.

"IN OUR OPINION" By RUTH TAYLOR How many men have you met who said "I don't know?" It takes a lot of courage to profess ignorance—but the bigger a man is, the more ready he is to admit that he doesn't know everything.

Too many people today claim exhaustive knowledge. They are continual critics of every one around them, of those in authority, even when they have elected them—and they always know just what should have been done under every circumstance. They have to express an opinion on each and every subject.

Must we express an opinion? Must we always take time off from important, even if monotonous tasks, to say something? Can't we ever say "I don't know?" Can't we learn to weigh our words before we speak? If we stopped to consider what our opinion was worth, there are lots of times when we wouldn't give it.

It is that habit of ours of always having an opinion that has been played upon by enemy saboteurs. Our boys have died in burning oil on the high seas because we must show our knowledge of sailing ships. Munitions have exploded, shipments been lost or delayed at the cost of lives, all because we must talk, we must express an opinion. We could have kept still or said "I don't know"—but we didn't.

That other saboteur, the propagandist, has also used this habit of ours to further his long range aims. Hasty speech means generalizations to cover up the lack of facts. We have had an opinion that such-and-such a group wasn't doing its share in the war. (Fix in the name which ever, one you don't like—the story is always the same, only the group is different.) We have carried profiteer at all groups except the one to which we as individuals belong. We have condemned en masse the mistakes of an individual. And what we have done those like us have done—which is just what the enemy was after, a division into groups of an indivisible nation.

Must we express an opinion? If we must, then let us not talk of the things we don't know, of those things on which we have only opinions and not facts. Let us talk of the things we do know and believe. Let us express what is our real opinion, the opinion that made our nation, that kept it together against hardships such as those who complain the most have never known. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." This is the American opinion—let us express it in every word and deed!

Free Labor Will Out- Produce Nazi Slaves

THE PLEDGE OF EVERY LOYAL A. F. OF L. UNIONIST

"I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands—One Nation, Indivisible, With Liberty and Justice for All!"

War Dept. Girls Help Farmers

WASHINGTON.—A number of War Department workers—clerks and stenographers—are getting their sun tans the hard way these days helping farmers in nearby Maryland and Virginia to harvest their crops. The number of volunteer workers has increased as the crops ripened. The farmerettes are housed and fed "three squares" a day and are paid at the prevailing rate. They arise at 5:30 A. M.—by bugle—and "lights out" is at 9 P. M. They're nearly always ready to retire by that hour, the girls say.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL is the only paper published in the Piedmont section of North Carolina representing the A. F. of L. It is endorsed by the North Carolina Federation of Labor, Charlotte Central Labor Union and various locals. THE JOURNAL HAS A RECORD OF 13 YEARS CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION AND SERVICE IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT.